



## Back To Normal? Almost There!

—By Robert KA5WSS

The tide is turning ever so slightly in our battle against COVID-19. The work done by scientists and citizens in general have gotten us to a point where we can almost see light at the end of the tunnel. Does this mean VOMARC is returning to our old ways of meeting? Almost. Almost.

The VOMARC Board of Directors looked at the current state of affairs and made the decision to hold a remote [Field Day for 2021](#), just as we did in 2020. The [American Radio Relay League](#) (ARRL) extended the special rules rolled out last year to allow clubs to aggregate scores from individual club members who operated their home stations. These changes included scoring changes that allow commercially powered stations to work more participants. But, there also seems to be some growing interest in pursuing an in-person effort this year, which some members are investigating. More on this at this month's meeting and next.

For the time being, meetings will continue to be held via Zoom, at least through June (we already have speakers lined up for May and June). It all really depends on how those infection numbers

and deaths decline. If we all keep doing our part we can hasten the day when that can occur.

### NEXT MEETING

Wed, May 19, 2021, 7:30pm

Zoom meeting room info will be emailed later.

**Topic:** Again, Again! Why Do Some Modes Work Better?

**Presenter:** Kristen McIntyre (K6WX)

### Minutes of the April 21 Meeting

Meeting was held together on ZOOM by KA5WSS

Members: KA5WSS (Robert), KD6FIL (Dave), KG6QNT (Eileen), KB6CLV (Simon), KM6ZUC (Bruce), N7PIB (Sanford), N6TVN (Carl), AK6RF (Matt), W8EWL (John), K6ZMF (Jack), KE6HID (Andrew), NJ6E (Stan), WB6TMH (Mike), KF6FZM (Dick), W1EJ (Ed)

Guest: W6LSU (Alan), NR5NN (JR), K6RDW/7 (Ross), KN6EN (Bob), KN6COR (Janine), AA6MW (Michelle), K6JJR (Mark), Brad, K6KHB (Klaus), W6RSS (Ross), Bob Frentress, Mike Preovolos, WO6K (Scott), N6YPN (Chris)

Meeting called to order at 19:32 by KA5WSS

### MINUTES

Minutes from the March meeting accepted as written.

## News Letter Editor

Thanks to W1EJ for the great article and photos on telegraph keys.

## VE Liaison-Presented by KA5WSS

VE session is scheduled for April 24 in the Sonoma PD Training Room. You need to register for the test. See <http://vomarc.org/licensing.html> for additional information. Welcome packets were put together by KA5WSS and will be passed out to new hams at the session.

## Radio Officer

No Report

## Station Trustee

No Report

## TREASURER

Currently have \$4,945 in the bank. VOMARC set it up to pay dues online.

Still have not purchased a printer.

## SECRETARY

No Updates. The VOMARC Breakfast on the Air is going well.

## Vice President

No Report

## PRESIDENT

Thank you to the newsletter editor for the great letter.

There is a new net control list on the website: <https://docs.google.com/spreadsheets/d/1NOLIM6rvUWczd3tnfSVyAMLMesYWYuPS6TvKGQ00Jc/edit#gid=0>

## NEW BUSINESS

ARRL is allowing for remote field day, similar to last year. Club members can operate anywhere and submit their score to be added to the total for the club.

## OLD BUSINESS

VOMARC Hamfest – scheduled for October 2 at the Congregational Church on Spain Street thanks to WD6BOR's efforts. More details to follow. Website has been updated to reflect the upcoming event.

KI6JNU coordinating the Boy Scouts doing JOTA on October 15-17. More information to follow.

Point Reyes Lighthouse on the Air is being coordinated by KG6N and is scheduled for August 21.

The Sonoma County DMR net is still going at 1830 on Thursdays on talk group 31707.

**Mystery Box:** Jack, K6ZMF has the box and the Mystery Box program is on hold for a while

**Next Month's Program:** Again, Again, Why do some modes work better than others by K6WX

**PROGRAM:** Junk Box Antennas by NR5NN

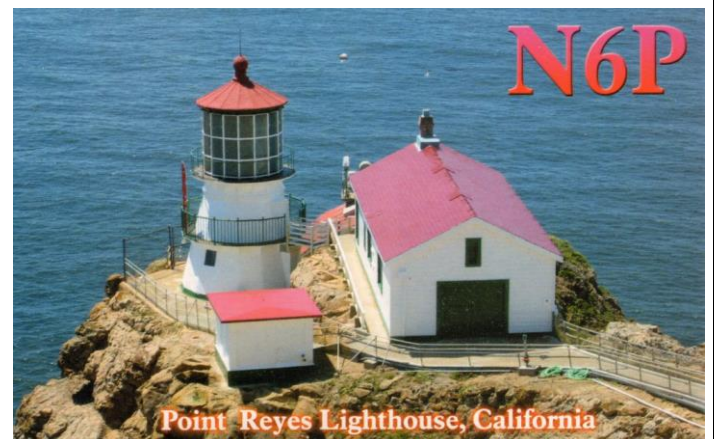
Meeting adjourned at 2100ish.

—Submitted by Dave KD6FIL

## A Blast From The Past

While helping to clean out Jim Hill's (K6UUW - SK) shack recently I came across this gem. The club QSL card for one of our outings at Point Reyes Lighthouse along the Pacific Coast. We are potentially going to make a return visit in August.

This particular card was for a QSO Jim made with N6P in 2013 on 20M. Signed by former club member Ken McTaggart (N6KM - SK).



## Antenna Switch, Sort Of

I have two HF radios. One is an older Kenwood TS-680S and the other a newer Yaesu FT-991A. I could easily just stick with the FT-991A full time if it weren't for one pesky issue. Working 60M FT8 is a royal pain.

When giving Hams access to the 60M band the FCC chose to channelize the allocation. It's the only band with this quirk. Rather than trust that Hams will set their VFOs to the right frequency Yaesu sets up real channels that prevent any tuning mistakes. But that means WSJT-X and other software that normally can control the radio's VFO can't because the radio handles tuning on the band differently.

That's where my old TS-680S comes in. It's old, but a friend modified it years ago to open up the transmit range (I don't recall why). Even though this radio predates the Amateur Radio 60M band it's quite 60M ready. So when I want to make 60M FT8 contacts I switch my antenna to the Kenwood and start making contacts.

But I'm lazy. Sometimes I'm not keen on switching out the antenna cabling in the back of the radios, even if it only takes a minute. So I've repurposed an MFJ-1702C antenna switch to be a radio switch instead. The two HF radios connect to the A and B "antenna" ports. The antenna connects to what would normally be the single radio port.

This is not a duplexer. I will never attempt to use both radios at the same time. That wouldn't even work with how the switch functions. I don't even have both



radios powered up at the same time. The switch provides an isolation level of 60dB to the port that's not selected and that radio is powered off. So now I can switch to 60M in a snap without loosening and reconnecting cables in the back of the radios.

—Submitted by Robert KA5WSS

## Who's Doing What

Congrats to **Carl (N6TVN)** on receiving the [Northern California Contest Club's](#) Rookie of the Year award! Keep churning out those contest QSOs!



**Ed (W1EJ)** recently made summit-to-summit contacts with Japan and New Zealand, in addition to US contacts, when operating from atop a mountain as part of the [Summits On The Air](#) (SOTA) program.

**Sanford (N7PIB)** has now worked 1,150 parks as part of the [Parks On The Air](#) (POTA) program. He's also contemplating activating some parks on a future visit back to Wyoming. He reports that 10M is now opening up at night time occasionally.

**Jack (K6ZMF)** worked Venezuela and St. Croix in the MM contest despite the poor band conditions that weekend.

**Dan (WA6CRB)** has been active with GMRS radios.

**Robert (KA5WSS)** confirmed his 250th prefix on 30M to earn another [WPX award](#) endorsement. He almost completed a contact



with a VK8 station to get his 40th and final zone for the CQ Worked all Zones award, but came up short.

—Submitted by Robert KA5WSS

## Misc

- The [Yasme Foundation](#) has released two chronicles of DX history via a free download. [Yasme: The Danny Weil and Colvin Radio Expeditions](#) documents the adventures of Danny Weil (VP2VB), Iris Colvin (W6QL) and Lloyd Colvin (W6KG) over the years. [Danny Weil - a Dreamer of Distant Lands Who Took the Amateur Radio Trip of a Lifetime](#) is an extended article about Danny's travels in particular.
- The 2022 World Radiosport Team Championship, to be held in Italy, has been [postponed until 2023](#). The cause, in case you haven't been watching the news lately, is the global COVID-19 pandemic. On a related note, check out [my qualification standings for the event](#). Needless to say, I will not be competing in the event next year!
- The [Visalia International DX Convention](#) will not be held in person again this year. Instead it will be hosted via Zoom the weekend of May 15-16. Best of all, registration is free!
- An elderly couple used military Morse Code training to [escape from an assisted living facility in Tennessee](#).
- Fixed a bunch of broken links on the [VOMARC links page](#).
- CQ Venus? Like our own Earth, Venus' ionosphere reacts to the changing solar cycle. NASA's Parker Solar Probe recently [picked up naturally occurring radio signals from its atmosphere](#). Earth's sister planet too is looking forward to Cycle 25.

- Robert (KA5WSS) has an old 16 bottle wine fridge that died on him. Free to anyone who wants to try and revive it.

—Submitted by Robert KA5WSS

## Petroglyphs at White River Narrows

—by Joe (N7TSQ)

White River Narrows, in lower White River Valley, is a winding canyon formed during the Pleistocene (ca. 2.5 million to 11,700 years ago) and home to one of the largest concentrations of prehistoric rock art in eastern Nevada. It



contains numerous rock art sites that collectively form a district covering some 4,000 acres that is listed on the National Register of Historic Places.

The petroglyphs at [White River Narrows](#) provide glimpses into the cultural lives of Native American peoples who lived by harvesting wild plants and animals from some 4,000 years ago until the nineteenth century. Although the exact meanings of the Narrows' rock art may be unknowable, they mark the Narrows as a place important to those who made and used these galleries of ancient art. These petroglyphs continue today to be important to Native American peoples living in the region. (Taken from, the BLM website). For more information see [BLM.gov](#).



We also visited sites at Mt. Irish. Both sites are located in Eastern Nevada. My camping buddies had a 4 season camper. I have my trusty Fit and my tent. Nighttime temperatures were cold from 27 to 37 degrees. But with my down sleeping bag I was fine.



There are petroglyphs and pictographs everywhere. The best way to find them is to check maps, google searches and ask locals. I find most from YouTube videos. Next time you

are on the road stop by the local tourist information office and ask about Native American ruins or petroglyphs in the area. Enjoy the discovery. N7TSQ.

## Post Pandemic Travel For Ham Radio Fans - As Far Away as Possible

—by John (W8EWL).

While scanning the Wall Street Journal with my morning coffee last Thursday morning, I came across an article on a post-pandemic travel plan to get away as far as possible.

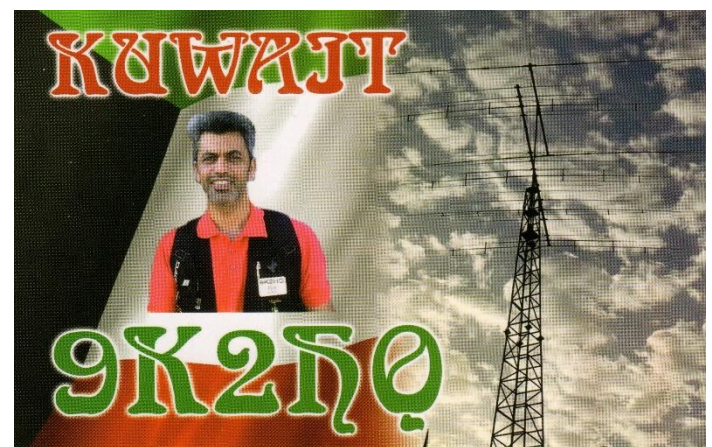
Thinking it might be a description of how to be one of the first voyagers on Elon's rocket to Mars, I read on.

I was surprised to find out that this article described amateur radio operators, and a planned DXpedition to Bouvet Island, on the second-most wanted country list. In 2005, the leader of the expedition made it to N. Korea, number one on the list.

Hope you enjoy the article as much as I.

<https://www.wsj.com/articles/post-pandemic-travel-for-ham-radio-fans-as-far-away-as-possible-11620312400>

## QSL Card Inbox



I worked on 9K2HQ in Kuwait on 40M using FT8.



## QSL Card Inbox (cont)

**THE WORLD BANK**  
Amateur Radio Club

**4U1WB**

1818 H STREET NW  
WASHINGTON DC  
20433 USA

**KA5WSS**

CONFIRMING QSO WITH	DATE			UTC	Band	RST	2X	
	DAY	MONTH	YI					
				02-Feb-2020	19:38	20m	-03	FT4

Tnx QSL 73 de KK4HD  
Verified and printed by DX4WVN

73, \_\_\_\_\_  
Station Operator

Unlike 4U1UN at the UN headquarters in New York, 4U1WB in Washington, DC does not count for extra DXCC credit. The World Bank uses the UN's callsign allocation but counts the same as any other Ham Station in Washington DC. Still, I felt compelled to get a QSL card for this FT4 contact.



The Most Serene Republic of San Marino claims to be the oldest republic in the world. More importantly, this QSL card confirms a 2019 SSB QSO on 17M. This is an all time new one for me.

—Submitted by Robert KA5WSS

## THE VOMARC WIRELESS

### VOLUME 25 EDITION 5

A publication of VOMARC, the Valley of the Moon Amateur Radio Club – W6AJF

Frank C. Jones – W6AJF

Honorary President in Perpetuity

### CAST OF CHARACTERS

Robert Barron KA5WSS – President

Ed Jacobson, W1EJ – Vice President

Dave Dammuller, KD6FIL – Secretary/Treasurer

Mike Miller, WB6TMH – Radio Officer

Moe Llanes, KI6JNU – ACS Unit Leader

Elizabeth Morris-Mowrey, N6LY – VE Liaison

Darrel Jones, WD6BOR – Station Trustee for W6AJF

Eileen Adams, KG6QNT – Editor

Robert Barron, KA5WSS – Webmeister

*"Receipt of the Wireless is one of the most sought after benefits of membership in VOMARC."*—S. Marler

WEB PAGE: <http://www.vomarc.org/>

**Nets** are held every Wednesday night at 19:30 (7:30 P.M.) local, except meeting nights on the 145.350 repeater, -600 kHz, PL 88.5 Hz.

**Breakfast Nets** are held every Tuesday and Saturday morning at 7:30 AM on the 146.205, +600, PL 88.5 Hz repeater.

Comments and submissions of material may be sent to:

[Eileen@vom.com](mailto:Eileen@vom.com)

—OR—

**Valley of the Moon ARC, Inc.**

C/O Sonoma Police Department

175 First Street West

Sonoma, CA 95476

### 2021 ACS Net Control Assignments

	Name	Call
JANUARY	MOE	KI6JNU
FEBRUARY	SCOTT	KJ6QIQ
MARCH	SCOTT	KJ6QIQ
APRIL	JIM	K6UUW
MAY	DICK	KF6FZM
JUNE	MOE	KI6JNU
JULY		
AUGUST	BILL	KJ6EIG
SEPTEMBER	SAM	W5LTP
OCTOBER	DICK	FK6FZM
NOVEMBER	MIKE	WB6TMH
DECEMBER	DARREL	WD6BOR

### 2021 VOMARC Net Control Assignments

	Name	Call
JANUARY	ROBERT	KA5WSS
FEBRUARY	DARREL	WD6BOR
MARCH	MOE	KI6JNU
APRIL	DAVE	KD6FIL
MAY	ED	W1EJ
JUNE	FRANK	KG6N
JULY	ED	W1EJ
AUGUST	CARL	N6TVN
SEPTEMBER	SAM	W5LTP
OCTOBER	DICK	KF6FZM
NOVEMBER	MIKE	WB6TMH
DECEMBER	DARREL	WD6BOR

## VOMARC MEMBERSHIP 2021

Membership Dues: \$15/year individual; \$5/year family member at same address.

VOMARC encourages its members to join the ARRL. More information is available at [www.arrl.org](http://www.arrl.org).

QST is available to blind and physically handicapped individuals on audio cassette from the Library of Congress, National Library Service for the Blind and Physically Handicapped. Call 1-800-424-8567.

Name: \_\_\_\_\_ CALL: \_\_\_\_\_ EMAIL: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_ APT: \_\_\_\_\_

City: \_\_\_\_\_ State: \_\_\_\_\_ ZIP: \_\_\_\_\_

Name: \_\_\_\_\_ CALL: \_\_\_\_\_ EMAIL: \_\_\_\_\_

Name: \_\_\_\_\_ CALL: \_\_\_\_\_ EMAIL: \_\_\_\_\_

VOMARC Membership: Complimentary with Class—Date: \_\_\_\_\_

Membership Moment, From the Database Queen:

Dues may be mailed to VOMARC in care of the Sonoma Police Department, 175 1<sup>st</sup> St West, CA 95476, or brought to the next meeting. Your check should be made payable to: **VOMARC**.